

• SOVIET UNION: CPYRGHT

'Hello, Comrade Philby'

Meet the Renaissance espionage agent. His face is weathered and masculine. His manner is calm and modest. He speaks Hindi, Arabic, German, French, Spanish, Turkish, Russian and English. He reads

Dickens, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Balzac, Chekhov and Graham Greene. And his only weakness seems to be a preference for Soviet-made Pamir cigarettes. "I'm used to the strong kind," he explains, passing the pack around the room.

A paperback blurb for a Russian James Bond? Not quite. Rather, it was the Soviet press's larger-than-life description of Russia's newest hero—Harold A.R. (Kim) Philby, the Cantabrigian Communist who penetrated to the highest levels of Western intelligence organizations during his 30-year career as a Soviet agent. Last week, six years after Philby took refuge in Moscow, the official government newspaper, Izvestia, finally got around to introducing him to its readers—in an article entitled, "Hello, Comrade Philby."

The interview was conducted by two properly awed Russian journalists in Philby's Moscow apartment and traced his career back to 1934 when, as a vacationing Cambridge student, he witnessed the bloody suppression of the Austrian Socialist uprising. The incident had a lasting effect. "I immediately understood on which side of the barricades my place was," Philby told his interviewers. "I painfully sought out the means of being useful to the great movement of modern times, the name of which is Communism. The personification of these ideas is the Soviet Union and its heroic people, who have laid the foundation for the construction of a new world. And I found the form for this struggle in my work in Soviet espionage."

Massacre: That work, as the world already knows from the British press stories on Philby's career (NEWSWEEK, Oct. 30), was astonishingly successful. At one point the Izvestia article describes how Philby met with CIA head Allen Dulles and his top deputies to organize "a counter-revolutionary uprising in one of the Balkan Socialist countries." (The British have identified the country as Albania.) It was Philby, acting as a liaison officer between the British and American intelligence services, who actually put the finishing touches on the CIA plan. Then he tipped off the Russians, and the Western agents dropped into Albania were massacred as they landed.

Philby's greatest contributions to Moscow came after he had risen through the ranks of the British intelligence service (he was once even considered to head it) to run its anti-Communist section. "You can imagine what kind of information I was able to send to Moscow," he recalled.

Throughout his career in British intelligence, Philby often came in contact with the top people in the American intelligence community. His thumbnail sketches of three of them:

■ **Former CIA director Allen Dulles:** "He was cautious in his relations with people, but in fact had a haughty attitude toward them. He did not thoroughly investigate matters and, for all his aggressiveness, he was a dilettante. It is

considered that he got the job thanks to his brother, John Foster Dulles, then the Secretary of State."

■ **Dulles's successor, Richard Helms:** "He is exceptionally discreet. He is more of an intriguer than a specialist in his trade. As a CIA man once said to me, Helms is connected with a certain influential political group which has always urged him forward."

■ **FBI director J. Edgar Hoover:** "He is a notorious counterintelligence man who controls an apparatus of repression that is monstrous in scale. At times my conversations with Hoover were extremely curious. They got on to discussions of the working methods of Soviet intelligence. They were most enthralling chats." (Here the interviewers noted that "Comrade Kim found it hard to keep back a smile.")

At the end of the four-hour interview, the two journalists braced themselves for what they described as a "rather



The Observer

Philby: He'd do it all over again

straightforward question." "Comrade Kim," they asked, "are you happy?" Philby answered: "Looking back over the past years, I don't think that I lived them in vain. Yes, I am happy. I would like to repeat the words of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the knight of the Revolution, the great humanist: 'If I had to begin my life again, I would begin it just as I did.'"

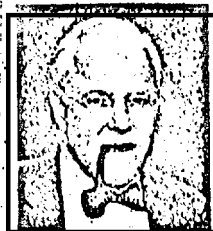
What the interview left unanswered was why the Soviet intelligence organization chose this particular time to break with tradition and publicize the exploits of one of its most successful agents. Os-

counterpart, the KGB. In addition, it was patently the latest in a long series of Russian efforts to discredit the British and American intelligence services, an

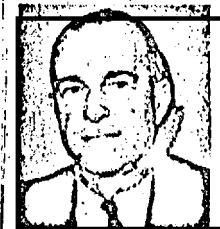
effort that has taken on added ferocity since the defection of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, and the subsequent publication in the West of her memoirs.

But the truth probably went deeper. Thus, just before the interview was published, Philby met privately with a correspondent of The Sunday Times of London and offered not to publish a book detailing his exploits if London would agree to swap convicted Soviet spies Peter and Helen Kroger, now in prison in England, for Gerald Brooke, the British lecturer imprisoned in the U.S.S.R. on spy charges. The British, perhaps counting on the fact that the Russians have so far been unable to find anyone in England willing to publish the book, turned Philby's offer down flatly, and dismissed his attempts to discredit the British secret service as a "classic exercise by the KGB's department four—the department of misinformation and decomposition."

For his part, Philby seems to hope



Dulles



UPI Photos
Helms



Hoover

that his offer may yet be accepted; he went on to suggest that if it is not, he will have many more embarrassing things to say about the Western intelligence services. "Immediately after this book," he told Izvestia, "I am thinking of starting another." And after that? "Then," he said dryly, "I will write another."

C.I.A. I.O.I - HELMS, RICHARD

"Great Humanist Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the Soviet Cheka or secret police, was known as 'Felix of the golden heart'... he was reportedly addicted to vodka... and was executed during the period (1917-20) when he headed Russia's internal security."